

of the wealthy friends of education will come forward to defray. The cost of the schools themselves has not been finally ascertained: the amount of the contract was 2,433l. but this has probably been exceeded.

LONDON SIGNS.

Few casual observers are perhaps aware of the curious origin of many of the shop and public-house signs, and a still smaller number remember when most shopkeepers displayed signs, which projected far into the street, with iron supports, and upon which large sums were expended. It is stated in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1770, that the signs exhibited upon Ludgate-hill cost several hundred pounds.

In a paper (No. 28) of the *Spectator*, written by Addison, and in alluding to this ancient custom, he mentions the sign of a goat before the door of a perfumer, and the French king's head, at a sword cutler's. In the sixth plate of Hogarth's "Industry and Idleness," the sign of West and Goodchild, who are silk-weavers, is a rampant lion with a cornucopia on either side. In the same artist's plate of "Noon," the cook's shop has a Baptist's head; and in the plate of "Night," in the same series, the sign of the barber's shop is, besides his pole, a hand drawing a tooth, the head being in exquisite pain, having written underneath, "aching, bleeding, and teeth drawn with a touch—*Eccè signum*." In Shakespeare's play of Richard the Third (Act 3. scene 5), occurs the following passage:—

"Tell them how Edward put to death a citizen,
Only for saying he would make his son
Heir to the Crown; meaning, indeed, his house,
Which by the sign thereof was termed so."

The person here alluded to, says Gray, was one Walker, a substantial citizen and grocer at the "Crown," in Cheapside. The well-known sign of the "Good Woman," which is a woman without a head, was a common emblem at oil shops, and it is supposed to have been originally started from a large oil jar, fancifully painted, so as to resemble a headless woman; and at the present day it is very frequently seen over the door, by way of sign. At ironmongers' shops, a dog licking a porridge-pot was the usual sign: an instance might, a short time ago, be seen at a large ironmonger's in the Blackfriars-road. The barber's pole, likewise, is one of the few remaining shop signs, and one which has caused much antiquarian discussion: it is supposed to represent (when barbers were surgeons also) the bleeding-stick, the black stripes being the tape wound round it. In the "Athenian Oracle," it is stated that the barbers' art was so beneficial to the public, that he who first brought it up in Rome, had, as authors relate, a statue erected to his memory; and it is further stated, that barbers were wont to hang their basins out upon poles, that wounded and weary travellers might see from a distance to whom they might have recourse.

Lord Thurlow in his speech concerning the Surgeon's Incorporation Bill in 1797, stated, that by a statute still in force the barbers and surgeons were each to use a pole, the barbers' to be blue and white striped, with no other appendage—the surgeons' to be similar, with the addition of a gallipot and red rag, to denote the particular nature of their vocation.

The sign of the chequers is of great antiquity, having been found at Pompeii, and it is still common. Brand considers that this sign was intended to make known that a game called "tables" might be played there, from the colour, which was red, and the similarity to a lattice: it was sometimes corruptly called the "red lettuce," which words were frequently adopted by ancient writers to signify an alehouse. Falstaff, in the "Merry Wives of Windsor," speaks of "your red lattice phrases." In an old play called the "First Part of Antonio and Melida," the following occurs, "As well known by my wit as an alehouse by a red lattice." The lattice was converted into the green lettuce, which was formerly the sign of a public house in Holborn, and the green lettuce is still to be found in Billingsgate.

As recently as seventy years since, and perhaps even later, the shops in London displayed signs swinging across the streets, but from their impeding the free circulation of air

they were taken down and placed against the houses, and were, after a time, superseded by the present fashion, of the name and business being painted on the front.—G. J. RHODES.

BOOKS.

On the Construction of Locks and Keys. By JOHN CHUBB. Cloves, Printers.

THIS neat little illustrated volume is merely the "Excerpt Minutes of Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers, vol. IX. by permission of the Council." It contains some curious and interesting particulars in regard to the antiquity, history, and construction of locks and keys. One of the most ancient forms of keys appears to have been something like the modern picklock, or, at least, like a sickle, and, like it too, was carried usually on the shoulder. A very dangerous and ingenious practice in modern burglary is here noticed, namely, the expeditious copying of lock wards by aid of a blind key covered with a layer of wax and soap, on which the impression is taken. Besides an account of the construction of his own locks, Mr. Chubb describes various others, of more or less approved construction, and in an appendix he gives some suggestions as to securing strong rooms, and also a list of patents and prizes. For security in banks, &c. the author, besides other safeguards, recommends a bolt, extending from the manager's bed-room above down along the iron door of the strong room. Could not bell wires, or other apparatus connected with bells, be secretly attached to lock work or doors, so as at once to give warning on the slightest attempt to pick the lock or move a bolt? In the discussion which followed the reading of Mr. Chubb's paper, opinions did not seem to be altogether unanimous as to the impossibility of picking tumbler locks, made even on Chubb's principle, although no one seems to have been able to say that any made by Mr. Chubb himself had ever been picked.

An Essay on the Science of Pronunciation, dedicated to H.M. Public Opinion, the Queen of the World. By an Advocate of Consistency. King and Co., Camden-town.

THIS is rather a "queer" book. The author, who is himself anonymous, although he declares himself an enemy to anonymous publications, as well as an advocate of consistency, is clearly an original, and here displays an immense mass of correlative research, methodically marshalled, and replete with critical acumen. Such a ripping up of modern authorities we never did see. But, however "erroneously" we may now be taught to pronounce many words in the English language, it is at least questionable whether a return to what might be critically held to be the only strictly correct mode of pronunciation, in many instances, would not in itself expose us now to the obnoxious charge of pedantry, to which this author himself gives little quarter wherever it clashes with his own foregone conclusions. And besides, he is himself an advocate of Progress, in which, where present practice is inconsistent with past authority, the practice, if at all general, becomes the rule, and the authority obsolete. Nevertheless, we do not mean to defend innovation as a rule, only we cannot consistently urge the force of past authority as a strait-laced fit, or an imperial measure, while, at the very same time, denouncing, as this same author does, many antiquated modes of pronunciation as "vulgar in 1850," the "more active as well as more exact" habits of which "wide awake" age he favourably contrasts, as the modern rule, with the "dangling pronunciations" of the past. We wish the author had given us his ideas on the subject of punctuation: if his practice be taken as a criterion of his principles (and he is himself, he says, the corrector of the press), he must have some very peculiar ideas on that score: e.g. "List of nearly a thousand words, for the pronunciation, or, spelling of which, see the numbers attached."

Architectural Sketches in Italy. By T. C. TINKLER, Architect, Blenheim-street, New Bond-street. No. III.

MR. TINKLER's third part consists of villa outlines, from Frascati, five gateways, bases of columns, and the villa on Monte Príncipe, Rome,—an elegant composition.

Miscellaneous.

THE IODINE SPA, WOODMALL.—It will be seen by the advertisements which have recently appeared in our columns, that this pleasant spot, between Lincoln and Boston, on the Great Northern Railway, and within three hours of London, is now to be let on building leases. The Spa has become famous for cures effected upon individuals using the baths there, and drinking the water of this spring, which has only been discovered within the last few years. An interesting account may be found in Dr. Granville's work, "The Spas of England." An analysis of the water, made by Mr. West, of Leeds, shows it to consist of,—

	Gr.
Chloride of magnesium	11.3
Chloride of calcium	26.7
Chloride of sodium	1517
Sulphate of soda	2.1
Bicarbonate of soda	6
Iodine	55
Bromine	8.35
Potash (a trace)	

Total grains per gallon 1572

When fresh drawn, it contains the following gases:—

Carbonic acid	171
Carburetted hydrogen	41
Nitrogen	191
Oxygen	(none)
Sulphuretted hydrogen (a slight trace)	

RAILWAY RATING.—At the various Quarter Sessions just held, the important question of railway rating, in connection with the railway companies appealing against assessment, has come under the consideration of the magistrates with different results. In the case of the Midland Railway, on the section of their line from Derby to Leeds, arrangements have just been made with the seventy parishes along the line, by which a reduction of about one-third on the sums paid for parochial rates during the last six years has been agreed to. The magistrates have confirmed the rate of 500l. per mile in the town of Wolverhampton, on the Shrewsbury and Birmingham Railway against the claim of the company to be rated at only 150l. per mile, the amount of assessment on other portions of the line. The South-Eastern Company have been assessed at 500l. per mile on their Isle of Thanet line; but their appeal against being rated for their Chatham line has been resented until the decision of the Court of Queen's Bench on the general question of railway rating is made known. An order has been served on the company for payment of the rates on their Folkestone line, otherwise a distress will issue; and an order has likewise been issued against the London and North-Western Railway for payment of the rate of 468l. per mile in the Saddleworth district, instead of 100l. per mile, as contended for by the company.

INSTITUTION OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS.—The quarterly general meeting of members was held on Wednesday in last week, Mr. McConnell in the chair, when papers were read, "On the Form of Railway Axes," by Mr. Thomas Thorneycroft; "On the Invention and Life of Wm. Murdoch," by Mr. W. Buckle, Sobor; and "On Railway Trailing Stock," by Mr. W. A. Adams. Mr. Geach then stated that several gentlemen had announced their intention to subscribe 1000l. each to the monument in honour of George Stephenson, the maker of the locomotive.

THE HOME OF TASTE.—How easy to be neat! to be clean! How easy to arrange the rooms with the most graceful propriety! How easy it is to invest our houses with the truest elegance! Elegance resides not with the upholsterer or the draper: it is not in the mosaics, the carpetings, the rosewood, the mahogany, the candelabra, or the marble ornaments; it consists in the spirit presiding over the chambers of the dwelling. Contentment must always be most graceful; it sheds serenity over the scene of its abode; it transforms a waste into a garden. The home lighted by these intimations of a nobler and brighter life may be wanting in much the discontented desire; but to its inhabitants it will be a place far outvying the oriental in brilliancy and glory.—*American Paper.*